

(b) whether the loss is due to over-exploitation of forest resources, overgrazing, encroachment, forest fires and siting of development projects in forest areas, as also making rural and urban population responsible for putting pressure on forest resources;

(c) whether most States have followed the natural forest laws pattern except Maharashtra, which has managed to increase the forest cover in the last decade; and

(d) if so, what are Government's plan to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) In the UNFPA Report, it is stated that since Independence, forests have declined from 72 million hectares in 1951 to around 63 million hectares in 1997. However, the first scientific assessment of forest cover was done by Forest Survey of India in 1987 using satellite data of the period 1981-83. Since then, forest cover of the country is assessed biennially. According to the seven assessments made so far, forest cover of the country has marginally declined from 19.49% to 19.39% in the period 1981-83 to 1995—98. The UNFPA Report has compared the forest cover assessed by Forest Survey of India in the period 1987 to the figures of recorded forest area of 1951 and 1969, which are not comparable.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a "National Forestry Action Plan" to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

Sanctuaries in the Country

†2824. **PROF. R. B. S. VARMA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number and details of sanctuaries in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the amount of funds allocated for these sanctuaries during the last three years;

(c) whether this amount is adequate for maintenance of these sanctuaries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, whether Government are contemplating to allocate more funds for these sanctuaries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There are 88 National Parks and 490 Sanctuaries in the country at present. The details of National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country is given in Statement-I (*See below*)

(b) The funds allocated for these National Parks and Sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries during the last three years is given in Statement II (*See below*)

(c) to (e) The responsibility of managing and maintaining the sanctuaries is with the State Governments. The Central Government provides funds only for upgradation of the enforcement infrastructure and improvement of habitat. The funding is basically for items which are of non-recurring nature. For effective functioning of National Parks & Sanctuaries the allocations under State Plan have to be increased to meet the recurring expenditure so that effective protection to wildlife can be provided.

Statement-I

State Wise WLS/NPS and Area

S.No.	State	National Parks		Sanctuary	
1.	A & N Islands	9	1153.951	96	481.66
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	373.2332	21	12488.19
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2468.23	11	7606.365
4.	Assam	5	1977.788	12	528.406
5.	Bihar	2	567.22	21	4861.47
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	2	26.009
7.	Daman & Diu	-	-	1	2.18
8.	Delhi	-	-	2	17.76
9.	Goa	1	107.00	6	647.96
10.	Gujarat	4	479.67	21	16584.39
11.	Haryana	1	143	9	287.32
12.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1329.4	32	5665.92

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

S.No.	State	National Parks		Sanctuary	
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	3810.07	16	10163.67
14.	Karnataka	5	2472.18	21	4231.439
15.	Kerala	3	536.52	12	1788.2
16.	Madhya Pradesh	11	6585.86	35	10618.98
17.	Maharashtra	5	955.93	33	14707.485
18.	Manipur	1	40.00	5	706.50
19.	Meghalaya	2	267.48	3	34.207
20.	Mazoram	2	250.00	3	771.00
21.	Nagaland	1	202.02	3	20.35
22.	Orissa	2	1212.7	17	6175.49
23.	Punjab	-	-	10	316.71
24.	Rajasthan	4	3859.37	24	5301.84
25.	Sikkim	1	1784.00	5	265.10
26.	Tamil Nadu	5	307.84	20	2541.70
27.	Tripura	-	-	4	603.08
28.	Uttar Pradesh	7	4573.31	29	8085.90
29.	West Bengal	5	1693.25	16	1223.47
		88	37008.452	490	116752.751

TOTAL PROTECTED AREAS = 578 AND AREA = 15 3761.203

Statement--II

Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs) Under the Scheme Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.19	50.72	87.54
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	57.91	50.983
3.	Assam	54.62	58.05	53.44
4.	Bihar	6.00	Nil	27.85
5.	Goa	Nil	11.07	21.305
6.	Gujarat	17.005	13.80	22.105
7.	Haryana	14.57	37.20	21.55

No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	64.50	49.80	47.46
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	124.70	7.00	5.55
10.	Karnataka	78.17	84.12	100.319
11.	Kerala	49.29	49.35	59.975
12.	Madhya Pradesh	195.67	35.93	152.203
13.	Maharashtra	48.845	27.783	123.43
14.	Manipur	13.50	19.64	13.28
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	13.48	8.45	12.30
17.	Nagaland	15.29	9.00	9.70
18.	Orissa	34.22	68.73	94.74
19.	Punjab	14.03	8.65	11.57
20.	Rajasthan	82.34	89.52	66.54
21.	Sikkim	12.51	11.00	12.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	61.284	74.63	61.18
23.	Tripura	29.81	Nil	19.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	89.57	117.81
25.	West Bengal	69.69	72.96	55.20
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	20.56	Nil	22.00
27.	Chandigarh	12.00	Nil	28.00
Total		1212.533	934.883	1298.00

National Forestry Action Programme

† 2825. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a National Forestry Action Programme for expansion of forests;

(b) if so, the detailed outline of the programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.